

# WØMTL - Mark Twain Land Area News — WØKEM

APRIL, 2009

## AMATEUR RADIO



**Happy Easter**

*PRAISE GOD FOR HIS BOUNTIFUL GIFTS IN  
THIS LAND OF PLENTY; OUR RENEWAL OF  
SEASONS, AND REMEMBER OUR COUNTRY IS  
THE BEST, AND WE NEED TO PRAY FOR OUR  
SOLDIERS, OUR LEADERS, AND OURSELVES!!*

### HARC OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: HOWARD BARNES, KØDFW  
V-PRES: J.D. SINCLAIR, WØAJD  
SECRETARY: FRED MILLER, KBØWIL  
TREASURER: TONY GILLILAND, WØPGL  
TRUSTEE: CLIFF AHRENS, KØCA  
EDITOR: BONNIE SINCLAIR, WBØWAP

Next Scheduled Meeting: Wednesday  
APRIL 08, at 7:30 PM

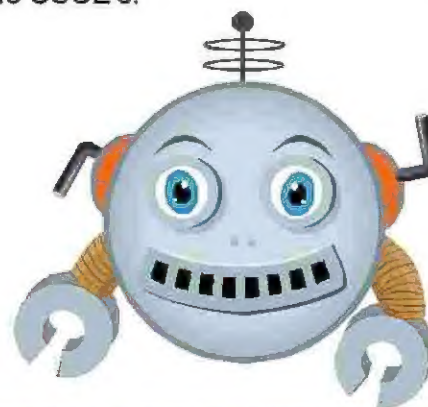
Regular Meetings are held at Beth Haven Nursing Home, 2500 Pleasant St., Hannibal, Mo.  
Enter at the main entrance; turn left through the lounge area to the elevator. Take the elevator down to the first floor, and go to your right/left around the corner, down the hall to the cafeteria.

### FCC VE TEST DATES FOR YEAR OF 2009 Hannibal, MO ARC 2009 Exam Dates

Wednesday, April 8, 2009 - 8:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, July 8, 2009 - 8:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, October 14, 2009 - 8:30 p.m.

Exams will take place at 8:30 PM after the regular scheduled HARC meeting. The exam session will be at the Beth Haven Nursing Home, in the Cafeteria on the 1st (lower) Floor, 2500 Pleasant St., Hannibal, MO. Registration is required at least 72 hours before the exam session by contacting the team liaison, Fred Miller- KBØWIL at [kb0wil@arrl.net](mailto:kb0wil@arrl.net) or 573-221-2429.

The 2009 test fee will be \$15.00. It goes to ARRL/VEC. Bring a photo ID (or two non-photo ID's); if currently licensed, bring the original and a photocopy of your valid FCC license; and if you are claiming credit for successful completion of an exam, bring the original and photocopy of any applicable CSCE's.



**REMEMBER THIS IS YOUR CLUB!! BE  
SURE TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL OF THE  
ACTIVITIES, AND PAY YOUR DUES SO WE  
CAN KEEP IN TOUCH, AND KEEP NEEDED  
EQUIPMENT WELL MAINTAINED.**



## HANNIBAL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MINUTES



Minutes of the meeting recorded by:  
Fred-KBØWIL...HARC Secretary...

**Date:** March 11th, 2009

**Location:** Beth Haven Nursing Home  
2500 Pleasant St. Hannibal, Mo 63401

**Meeting called to order by:** Howie-KØDFW

### Approval of minutes in newsletter:

Date of previous meeting: February 7th-Club  
Dinner at Golden Corral.

Motion to approve: Cliff-KØCA

Seconded by: Jack-WD9CHG

### Treasurers report: Tony-WØPGL



Cash-\$969.13 CD-\$1,244.99 Total-\$2,214.12

Motion to approve: Cliff-KØCA

Seconded by: Jack-WD9CHG

### Repeater report: Fred-KBØWIL

The 146.625 and the 146.880 repeaters are  
working great, no problems.

## Motorola Moblie Mara-Trac VHF Radios

We still have several Motorola Moblie Mara-Trac VHF radios, for sale. We have decided to sell the mobile radios, for \$50.00 each, to the local area hams. The rigs are rated at 100 watts, w/ 99 channels. Contact Howie-KØDFW or Jack-WD9CHG if you need any information regarding these radios. Jack-WD9CHG will reprogram and install the 2-meter frequencies and tones of your choice, for any member of the HARC free of charge. Update: We currently have (3) radios left.

**Club Coax:** We discussed about the club, needing more coax for Field Day & other Special Events. Fred-KBØWIL did some research, with several vendors and found WBØW in St Joe. Mo had the best prices. We agreed to purchase a 500' roll of RG-213 coax and Silver Teflon PL259 connectors. The total cost will be \$ 342.83 w/ shipping and taxes. Fred-KBØWIL is in charge of ordering these items.

Motion to approve: John-NØJA

Seconded by: Oral-KBØECF

## K9P Special Event: USPSA -Single Stack Nationals PASA Park Barry, Ill. April, 2009

We will be having a K9P Special Event, again this year from April 29th-May2nd, 2009. We will be using the World Famous Redneck Retreat as our base of operation. Carol-WA9EFV has agreed to be our host, of course he had to ask the real boss over there "Nancy", and she is an excellent hostess and cook. Carol is the self appointed Commander of this operation, if you don't believe me, just ask him and he will tell you it's true. This will be our 5th year using the K9P '1x1" call sign. Fred-KBØWIL will get the K9P call sign in the 1X1 database, as well as in the May QST magazine, in the special event section. We are planning on working Saturday May, 2<sup>nd</sup>, starting time approximately 0800 hours, 1300 ZULU.

### Donation: ARRL 2007 Handbook

Cliff-KØCA donated a ARRL 2007

Handbook, which is still in its new plastic wrapper. It is a very good reference manual for any ham.

Thanks Cliff for donating this great manual.



**\*Note:** We auctioned off this great manual tonight, and Fred-KBØWIL was the high bidder. Thanks to all who participated in the auction. Thanks to Howie-KØDFW for his fine auctioneering skills.

### **Field Day 2009: June 27-28, 2009**

Don't forget that Field Day is June 27th-June 28th, in Huckleberry Park, Hannibal Mo. We did very well last year, placing second in the state of Missouri in the 3A Class. We will discuss Field Day in more detail at next months meeting. Fred-KBØWIL is in charge of securing the pavilion in Huckleberry Park.

### **HARC Barbeque August 2009:**

We will have our annual club barbeque on Saturday August 1st, 2009. It will be at Huckleberry Park Pavilion. Fred-KBØWIL will take care of the reservations for the pavilion.

Note: The Quincy hamfest is on Saturday August 8th, 2009.

### **New Members:**

We voted in (2) new club members tonight; Luan Sandberg-Quincy IL, \*New Technician, No call sign yet, she just got her license on March 10th. (Call is now assigned: KC9PGS)

Les Heitman, ACØHD -Moberly Mo. Extra Class. Thank you both for joining our radio club!  
Motion to approve: Cliff-KØCA  
Seconded by: John-NØJA

### **\*\* Special Note: From Fred-KBØWIL**

It seems as if during the club meeting, there was another little meeting going on, and it was regarding Fred-KBØWIL doing a FREE car wash & wax job on the new members vehicles. I do believe this was like a Kangaroo Court, all of a sudden I'm washing vehicles, for free even. I don't think it states in the club by-laws anywhere, a club secretary is in charge of a project of this sort. The main culprits, in this conspiracy are: Jack-WD9CHG, Cliff-KØCA, John-NØJA, Oral-KBØECF, Mel-KCØHYY and probably Carol-WA9EFV. I'm sure there many more involved as well. The club secretary gets no respect.

### **HARC-Website Test:**

Tonight Fred-KBØWIL did a test on the members in attendance, to see how many pay attention to the clubs website. The following question was presented: {Who is head of security for WØKEM & WØMTL as posted on the clubs main page?} I saw several members with a puzzled look on there faces (Of course some of them look that way all the time....lol) Anyway, Oral-KBØECF was the only member who was even close to the correct answer. He didn't know the correct call sign, but he did at least know his first name, so he won a little prize. The correct answer was: W6XRL4-Herman. Stay tuned, could be more questions at next months meeting.

### **VE Testing: April 8th, 2009**

We will be having VE testing at next months meeting, approximately 8:30 PM, directly after the club meeting. There are currently (2) applicants signed up to take the exams.

Contact Fred-KBØWIL if any member or non member wishes to take an exam.

### **\* Update: Missouri House Bill 26**

There is a bill in the 95th General Assembly in Missouri, regarding HB26 Wireless Telephone Bill. We need to contact our local representatives and let them know, that there needs to be a provision for Amateur Radio Operators in this bill. Rachel Bringer is our local representative, and her number is 573-751-9818, which is in Jefferson City, Mo.

<http://www.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills091/bilbxt/intro/HB00261.htm>

**50/50:** Won by Mary Scranton-Quincy IL, congratulations on winning the 50/50.

Total members: 17  
Total guests: 3  
Total in attendance: 20

Minutes of the meeting recorded by:  
Fred KBØWIL... HARC Secretary...

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**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK  
MARCH 2009  
BY HOWARD BARNES K0DFW**

Well, Bonnie tells me that it is that time of the month again to write an article for the newsletter and it seems like it was last week when I sat down to type the last one! Man, the spring rain we had, just got thru, and I can hear the green grass growing out there. Everything is starting to grow and means two things ..... Easter isn't far away and I had better start getting the lawnmowers ready to go! Did I tell you that I don't like to mow, even though it is better than scooping snow? At least I don't get frostbite mowing, though those sunburns do hurt once in a while!

Well, it is April and that means one thing K9P! Carol had better get the REDNECK RETREAT ready because there is going to be a herd of hams migrating east from Hannibal area to Pike County Illinois just a little north of the PASA Park Gun Range, also known as the get away place - Redneck Retreat. Carol and his wife Nancy started this place for wayward hams that have been shocked too many times with their fingers inside those radio chassis and their brains are just a little fried. Now if you want a prime example of fried brains I will tell you take a good look at our club secretary FRED! This is a club official that runs around with official Herman Munster pens in his pocket and with the 3 Stooges tattooed on his various parts of his body! You say you have never seen his tattoos of Curley, Moe and Larry ..... Ask him to bare it for you so that you can see them! You will be impressed! Well, so much for picking on Fred! Anyway we are having a club special event coming up than last part of April, which will be listed in the newsletter,

and it will be at the Redneck Retreat at WA9EFV's Carol's hangout and we will run a station advertising the National Shooting Match next door at PASA Park and sending out QSL cards for a contact with us advertising our event. So if you want to have some fun running HF with power we will be running 800 watts of pure SSB HF signal radiating from Pike Co. Illinois! So be there, and everyone can be an op on the station!!!

Field day is soon approaching and we need to start doing some early stage planning on how we want to do things this year. I am trying to get 3 good CW ops set up to run the CW station so that we can make a run at being the top 3 A station in Missouri. I realize that there are no awards for states, but we can do this as a club goal and what the heck, we might do good nationally. It is good motivation for the club and gives us a goal to shoot at!

We will have a Bar B Que the first weekend of Aug. And Tony, J.D., Fred, and Oral said that they are going to be the chefs this year so we have our kitchen staff picked out and everyone is expecting a good time for all. So you want to mark this down on your calendars. and be there or miss a lot of fun.

Dayton Hamvention is coming up in May. This is a world class hamfest, and is known for being enormous, and a lot of fun. You get to meet hams from all over the world, and the ARRL will have their convention there as well. It is a lot of fun to meet the guys that you only read about in the magazines, and get to shake hands with them and get to know them. You also will find a lot of good deals, so you want to take a lot of money with you to scoop up the bargains.

The next club meeting is April 8 at the Beth Haven Nursing Home basement and I expect to see you all there for a good time.

73s Howard K0DFW

**Happy Easter!!**





# *Around the World*



**DX Horizons**  
**April 2009**  
 by Cliff Ahrens K0CA

Spring is here, and not a moment too soon. I'm really enjoying the extended daylight in the evenings, but it's a bummer getting up in the dark! The calendar shows lots of DX planned for April, so let's look at some of the highlights.

5Z Kenya. Look for Ronald PA3EWP operating HF from Kenya from April 1-12 as 5Z4/PA3EWP on 10-40 meters. QSL via PA7FM.

OHO Aland Islands. Anne OH2YL is planning to operate from the Aland Islands as OH0/OH2YL from April 9 -14. QSL via OH2YL.

S0 Western Sahara. A major DXpedition to Western Sahara is scheduled for April 12-17. QSL via EA5RM. For more information, see <http://www.dxfriends.com/s04r/>.

VK9M Mellish Reef. AA7JV and HA7RY will sign VK9GMW from Mellish Reef from March 27 - April 10. Stormy weather caused them to land on Marion Reef, but they hope to leave soon for Mellish Reef. For updates, see their web page at: <http://vk9gmw.com/gallery.html>.

VK9L Lord Howe. A major DXpedition to Lord Howe Island should be on the air as VK9LA when you read this article. The operation is scheduled from March 23 - April 3. Check out: <http://www.odxg.org/vk9la.htm>.

XU Cambodia. Reijo OH4MDY plans to be active as XU7MDY from April 9 - 21. QSL via OH4MDY.

The annual Missouri QSO Party, sponsored by the Boeing Employees' Amateur Radio Society - St. Louis, will be held this year on April 4th-5th, 2009. Operating periods are from 1800 GMT April 4th thru 0500 GMT April 5th and again beginning at 1800 GMT on April 5th thru 2400 GMT April 5th. The object of the contest is to QSO with as many Missouri amateur radio stations as possible and to contact as many different Missouri counties as possible. You may work each Missouri station once per band and mode. CW frequencies are 40khz up from the lower band edge. Phone frequencies are 1880 khz, 3980 khz, 7180 khz, 14280 khz, 21380 khz and 28380 khz. The contest exchange is RST, serial number and Missouri County or S/P/C. Logs are to be submitted no later than 1 June 2009 electronically to [MQQSOPARTY@W0MA.ORG](mailto:MQQSOPARTY@W0MA.ORG) or to the CBA for K2DP. Please note that logs submitted without the required "summary" sheet will not be accepted. Complete contest information is available at [www.W0MA.org](http://www.W0MA.org).

One of the best ways to work lots of DX is to get on the air in DX contests. A great one-stop source of contest information is WA7BNM's contest calendar at: <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>.

Thanks to the ARRL DX Bulletin, the Daily DX and the Ohio/Penn DX bulletin for some of the information in this month's column. 73 and good DX, Cliff K0CA

# Happy Easter!!

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**HARC MONDAY NIGHT NET**  
**CALL LIST OF VOLUNTEER OPERATORS**  
**APRIL 2009**

6	WØPGL	TONY
13	KØDFW	HOWARD
20	N9UPG	BILL
27	KB9VIS	BRIAN

Thanks to all of you who do this!! We do need more volunteers; if you are able to take one week a month, we would really appreciate it.

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**DISASTER PREPAREDNESS**

**When They Say: Are You Ready?  
How Do You Know You Are?**

Be sure to check out where current meetings are being held to educate us on this important way of helping in the time of disasters.

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**MY START INTO HAM RADIO**  
**BY HOWARD BARNES KØDFW**

Well, the other day Bonnie got me cornered in my taxidermy shop and let me know that I was going to write a short story of how I got started into ham radio. Well it all starts out something like this.

My interest started, you might say, back in the 1950s. We had just moved into a house that my Dad and Mom bought that was in the central part of Monroe City, and where my Dad stills owns his house now, and our new next door neighbors just happened to be working for Gates Radio Co. Of Quincy, Ill. Their names were the Nickerson's. Their granddad of the bunch that lived there was a self made radio repairman, and also ran the Monroe City Theater. Everyone called him "grampy". Anyone in town that had a radio that needed to be fixed, he was your man. He had a little tin building out back of their house where he pattered around with all the radio "stuff". And he had some really big looking radios in his "shack" that made a lot of weird noises that he called Morse code. He explained that he could talk all over the world on these radios and he talked for hours on how the wires carried his signals out into the air when he started tapping on his Morse code key. Now of days we call that key a J-38. He had a National NC- 300 receiver that weighed about 60 pounds and was a lot bigger than a bread box. The transmitter, sitting next to his receiver on his desk, was DX-100. Later on, I found out why they called these transmitters 100. They weighed 100 pounds, I am not lying, and they put out a maximum 100 watts. It was made by a company that I never heard of before. Heathkit! Well to the eyes and ears of a little kid about 5 years old I



was hooked by all the bells and whistles.

I remembered playing on summer nights with all the neighbor kids riding our bikes and chasing fireflies in the city park across the street from where we lived and it would be a Wednesday night and Mom would be at church for bible study and Dad was supposed to be keeping an eye on me. That was a big job back in those days and things weren't like what they are now, with all the bad guys running around like they do now. Anyway it would be starting to get dark, and I would come home to an "empty" house. I knew Mom was still at church, but I was wondering what happened to Dad. In the late evening darkness I could hear Morse code at a distance and I followed the sound. I followed it to "grump's" radio shack, and Morse code was coming out the open door in regular motion. I crept inside the door for a peek and there was grumpy tapping out Morse code on the old J-38 key and the transmitter's oscillator was chirping out the code as my Dad sat there with a pad of paper and pencil writing down the letters that he was sending. My Dad was learning the Morse code for some kind of license that he told me, was going to let "him" get on the air and talk to other hams.

Well as time went on he did get his "novice" license that let him get on the air on certain frequencies, and next thing I remember was we had a bunch of radios sitting around and my Dad was building a lot of them. I remembered how he took a flat sheet of shiny metal and start cutting it and bending it and making a "chassis". This was where you mounted all that radio stuff .....like transformers and phone jacks and tube receptacles, and big old capacitors and a million pretty colored resistors wired all together to make those "tubes" light up. Man they were pretty as a Christmas tree when he fired those things up. I remembered he built his "Citizen's Band" radio from scratch, and talked with a friend across town that built his "rig" and they would talk, and adjust those radios for hours at a time. He had a call sign for the "citizens band" radio but I can't remember it now. Anyway, between Ham radio and the citizens band radios, he was radio active, and all the while I was cutting my teeth on all the radio parts laying around. I was hooked on it and didn't even know it. My Dad use to rewind electric motors, and he would have spools of bright shiny copper wire that he kept on hand, and I

would get hold of one of those spools, and outside I would fly, hanging that bright shiny wire off of my swing set, and stretching it across the backyard, and just about anyplace that I could get, to make it hang up in the air. I had one of the best radio wire antennas in Monroe City! That was until Dad came home, and saw all his new wire hanging everywhere. I know I must have been a pain in his rear, but you know, I can't ever remember him raising his voice at me for doing it! Maybe we shared that interest enough that he knew where I was getting these big ideas from, and he didn't punish me for exploring radio. I can't tell you how many times I have been knocked on my butt from sticking my little prying fingers into those radios when they were plugged in! Man there was nothing like getting a full 114 volts of AC current running thru your veins. Probably some of the reason I am the way I am today!

My two older brothers got their "novice" license and everyone in the family was walking and talking Ham radio. I remember my next oldest brother, Kenny, taking an old wooden shed out back by Dad's lawnmower repair shop, and lining it with radio equipment and Qsl cards hanging all over the walls. Man he was going gung ho into radio.

As time went on and I was getting older I was busy growing up and I was "helping" my Dad in his lawnmower repair shop. But I was in a place where you learned by watching my Dad fix and repair pieces of strange looking metal that cut grass. I learned how to sharpen the old circular rotary mowers, and how to do valve jobs and put rings in them and make the lawnmowers run, and then I discovered females as I grew older and the world was never the same. I got married at the old age of 19, had a wife, buying a house, and paying for a car. Life had taken a drastic change!!! So about this time I started to get a strong sense of ham radio in my veins, and I started to remember the Morse code, and borrowed a old receiver from my Dad that I could copy W1AW on, and copy code at night! Well it soon paid off. I was copying 5 wpm in code and I was studying my novice study guide and next thing I know I was at Dick Gerling's, WB0RKR, house taking a novice ham test with 3 other guys. Guess what??? I passed and was assigned the call letters WD0DFW which I kept for many years. I borrowed an old NC-300 receiver and a Heathkit DX-100 transmitter and



this time I strung real dipole antennas, and started building my homebrew yogi antennas. I will tell you, I literally wore out the brass key that I had. I was working the world! I worked all states CW, and worked way over 100 countries on CW. Marion County Missouri was really radio active in those days!! I remembered studying for my "GENERAL" license and I got them, and increased my code speed to 15 wpm. Now I could talk on Side Band. But I didn't own a mike or a SSB radio! Well I started saving my pennies and made a "deal" with HENRY RADIO in Kansas City, and I bought the last TEMPO ONE SSB transceiver that they had, and it was their demonstrator, and he knocked a lot off the price to get rid of it, and let me pay it off with them financing the deal. Every week I sent them a few bucks out of my little pay check, cutting meat at the supermarket, and I soon owned it. It was all mine! I really piled on the Qsl cards, and soon had 200 countries worked. From there, I just kept growing into radio, and it has never let up. Oh, I have my idle periods, but then, I still have that fire burning down deep for the sound of good CW beating in my veins, and a new country to work. It is a struggle at times trying to pay the bills, and finding time to put up a new antenna. I have towers and radio equipment laying around here everywhere. You can ask anyone and they will tell you that I have! Oh yeah! I have a new call now. It is K0DFW! Close to my old call, but much faster on CW when you're sending in pileups! I have made and lost a lot of friends thru ham radio over the years. Man I really miss some of them! There were some great CW operators I knew. Some of these guys never owned a mic. Didn't need one for CW. Times has changed with the testing for ham radio but the keen interest and the excitement is still there in the old and young hams alike. I get a kick out of watching a guy making his first SSB contacts on the low bands, and watching them catch on fire with the radio. My little brother was one of those guys. He bought a nice used Kenwood ssb rig and put up a wire antenna at his house and then wouldn't get on the air!! So I made a special trip out to his house and went down into his basement and fired up the Kenwood, and listened for a minute and told him to get on there and start talking! I wanted to see it work! But he had mic fright! So I got on there, and sent out a CQ and got a man down in

Georgia that gave me a 59 twenty over signal report! I handed him the mic, and stepped away, and the rest is history now! He is closing on 300 countries worked, and you can't pry him off the radio. YOU MIGHT SAY THAT I LITE HIS FIRE THAT DAY! I still grin about it. His name is Oral and his call KB0ECF!

So here I am. I am now 55 years young, president of the Hannibal Amateur Radio Club, and hold an Advance ticket in Amateur Radio, and at one time could run 20 wpm in CW, but never pursued the Extra Class ticket. Guess maybe I should just for the heck of it!

Well, Bonnie wanted a story for the paper on my getting into ham radio, and now as the song says, "THAT'S MY STORY AND I AM STICKING TO IT!"

Hey who is going to Dayton this year?! I am!!!

73's Howard, K0DFW



LORI, HOWARD, K0DFW COLBY,

Thanks Howard for this interesting article!  
Bonnie, WB0WAP

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**Happy Easter!!**

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**ATTENTION!!! ATTENTION!!!**



**There is going to be a  
REDNECK HOEDOWN!  
GET YOUR RESERVATIONS IN NOW!!**

**Sponsored by the Redneck Retreat**

**DINNER & DANCE with a LIVE COUNTRY  
AND WESTERN BAND!!**

**Saturday, April 18, 2009**

**Doors open at 5:00 PM, Dinner at 6:00 PM  
Dancing 8:00 PM – 11:00 PM**

**Smith and Wesson Hall at Pasa Park, Barry, IL  
(West of Barry on Route 106 to 250<sup>th</sup> St)  
DINNER & DANCE \$15.00 PER PERSON  
Dance only \$5.00 per person at door  
(Reservation Not Required for the dance only)**

**Send Reservation and Payment  
Redneck Retreat  
32559 250<sup>th</sup> Street  
Barry, IL 62312**

***Reservations required by April 14, 2009  
For more information, call 217-335-2472***

**Include Name, Number Attending; and your  
Phone Number when you make the reservation.  
Payment must be enclosed with reservation!**

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**ATTENTION!!! FOR SALE!!!**



**\$500.00 Ameritron  
811 H Amplifier, Perfect condition.  
Pwr supply strapped for 240 VAC  
But can be changed to 120 V. Still  
Puts out full power. No scratches  
or dings. 10 mtr. Mod is done.  
Contact Tony, W0PGL.  
(573) 248-9053.**

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**HANNIBAL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.**  
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**U.S.A**



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